

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2009

7:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Jane Hobdy
Chandra Walker Holloway
Resa Levy
Wilma Holmes
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Ivonne C. Lindley
Larniece McKoy Moore
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

Ruby V. Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT:

Leticia Mederos
Manar S. Morales
Reggie Oldak

I. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES..... President Lichter

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Lichter, who dedicated the MCCFW meeting in honor of the memory of Senator Edward Kennedy who passed away on August 25, 2009 following a year-long battle with brain cancer. Senator Kennedy played a major role in passing many laws that benefited women and family issues and labor relations.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Atterbeary and seconded by Commissioner Lindley, the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the Minutes of the July 22, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Lichter

A. Maryland CFW

It was reported in the Baltimore Daily Sun that Helen Holton, President of the Maryland Commission for Women, was recently indicted for bribery, charges she has denied and is challenging. It is unclear that the MCW is meeting regularly; however, it is planning to sponsor a Women's Economic Empowerment Conference in December.

B. Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

The Maryland CFW is calling for nominations for its 2010 Women's Hall of Fame. MCCFW's Executive Committee recommended that the names of the three women CFW submitted in the last two years who were not selected be submitted again this year. Upon the motion made by Commissioner McKoy Moore, seconded by Commissioner Cryor Baldwin and unanimously passed, the following names will be resubmitted:

- (1) Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, an African American woman who refused to give up her seat for a white person on a bus ride in 1944, eleven years before Rosa Parks chose to do the same thing on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was beaten by the police and jailed. The Supreme Court decided on June 3, 1946 in *Irene Morgan v. Commonwealth of Virginia* that segregation was unconstitutional when any interstate commerce was involved.
- (2) Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to have served in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate;
- (3) Barbara Fritchie for her fabled patriotism and bravery during the Civil War.

C. Montgomery Week in Review

On July 30, 2009, President Lichter was one of four panelists interviewed for Cable Channel 21's *Montgomery Week in Review*. President Lichter discussed the CFW and the Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action report.

D. Community Service Day Project

Community Service Day is October 24, 2009. For the past 2 years, CFW contributed books for the children's libraries at the Betty Anne Krahne Center and the Family Justice Center. Commissioner Holloway Walker offered to coordinate this year's project. Commissioner Holmes, who is also the Principal of the Flower Valley Elementary School, said that every year, the children march in a costume parade and collect pennies for the homeless. She said that often, there are low-income children whose families cannot afford to buy costumes. Following discussion of different project ideas, Commissioner Holloway Walker moved that as its Community Service Day project, CFW support the Flower Valley Elementary School Halloween parade by providing costumes for some of the low-income children. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Holmes will provide Commissioner Holloway Walker with criteria for the costume project and these guidelines will be provided to commissioners at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting. Commissioners can then bring their donated costumes and bags for the children to collect treats to the October 28, 2009 CFW meeting.

E. CFW Vice Presidential Candidates

Notice of Intent to Run forms for CFW Vice President were distributed to commissioners in the July meeting agenda packets and are now due back. Commissioner Atterbeary has submitted an Intent to Run for 1st Vice President and Commissioner Lindley for 2nd Vice President. The election for CFW's vice presidents will be held at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting. Nominations from the floor may also be accepted at that meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – No report.

V. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. FY09 Annual Report

Staff is working on the first draft of the FY09 Annual Report and hopes to send it to the printer by the September CFW meeting. Drafts of CFW's committee's reports will be sent to the committee chairs for their review.

B. Divorce Guidebook

Staff is working closely with Commissioner Lindley on the Spanish language version of "A Women's Guide to Surviving the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce in Maryland."

C. School Readiness – Seasons of GivingRodgers

Thanks to the generosity of commissioners and staff, the Commission for Women collected \$135 in donations and with the additional supplies purchased by some staff, a very wonderful assortment of school supplies, including 13 backpacks, was given to the Family Services, Inc. program in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVAL OF FY10 WORK PLANS

A. Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda.....Hobdy

- (1) The Women's Advisory Network in Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office invited CFW to come and brief its staff on the MAP Agenda. CFW staff is waiting to hear back from that office on a possible date in September.

- (2) CFW signed on to a letter of support for the Healthy Families Act.
- (3) CFW received a wonderful letter from Chief of Police Tom Manger complimenting the MAP Report. A copy of his letter was included in the meeting packet. Chief Manger said that the Report was insightful and compelling and a “must-read” for every elected official. CFW will write a thank you memo to Chief Manger with copies to go to the County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer.
- (4) On July 30, the Governor’s Secretary of Appointments, Jean Hitchcock, met with representatives of various county boards, committees, and commissions. Commissioner Hobdy, former Commissioner Osias, and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo attended the meeting and shared the Commission’s MAP Report and other CFW projects.
- (5) On August 24, 2009, Commissioner Hobdy and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended a meeting convened by Councilwoman Trachtenberg to discuss how the county might address the economic issues confronting women who are poor. Other County officials were also in attendance, including Uma Ahluwalia, Bruce Adams, Steve Silverman and Katie Knowles. Councilwoman Trachtenberg may reconvene the group at a later date. There also may be an opportunity for CFW and Montgomery College to co-host a symposium in the future on the issue of women and poverty.
- (6) The FY10 MAPPA Work Plan was presented to commissioners for review and discussion. Changes to the plan were made and upon the motion made by Commissioner Samuels and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the FY10 MAPPA Work Plan was approved as amended.

B. Womens’ Legislative Briefing.....Atterbeary

The first WLB Planning meeting will be September 2, 2009 at the White Oak Library. There are already seven co-sponsors for the 2010 Briefing. Commissioners are encouraged to ask their endorsing organizations and any other organizations with which they are associated to serve as co-sponsors of the 2010 WLB. Budget/Legislative Specialist Marcelo will email the co-sponsorship form to commissioners.

C. Conference Agenda Planning CommitteeAridi Afas

- (1) The Committee met this evening and revised the FY10 Work Plan that was originally distributed to commissioners in the agenda packet. Commissioner Atterbeary moved that the FY10 Work Plan (as revised) be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley and unanimously approved.

- (2) Plans are underway for the 2010 NACW Conference. The theme, “Growing America’s Opportunities for Women and Girls” is focused on women’s commissions thriving; not just surviving, and the idea was borrowed from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. (See Item V. (G) below).

The hoped for dates of the national conference are July 22-29, 2010 and the CAP Committee is working with an organization that helps non-profit groups negotiate with hotels. Commissioner Aridi Afas anticipates the cost of the conference will likely be around \$40,000; however, the plan is to make it cost-neutral to MCCFW and hopefully raise money for NACW. Every MCCFW commissioner’s help will be necessary in order to raise funds and help identify workshop speakers, and conference co-sponsors.

- (3) The Committee is planning to meet on each Wednesday preceding the full CFW meetings and it was proposed that its meetings could run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and then for this one year only start the CFW meetings at 7:30 p.m. The CFW meetings would still adjourn at 9 p.m. Commissioner Aridi Afas moved that the CFW meeting schedule for the FY10 year be changed to begin at 7:30 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner McKoy Moore and unanimously approved. The CAP Committee will also hold meetings by conference call.
- (4) Commissioner Samuels agreed to help plan a visit to Capitol Hill or possibly to the Department of Justice, for the conference attendees. Commissioner Atterbeary agreed to help with this planning. Commissioner Mederos will be asked to lend her support as well.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Family Justice Center/DVCC.....Levy

The Board is continuing to grow and has raised significant funds as well as in-kind contributions such as pro-bono legal services. The Board has partnered with “Women Who Care Ministries,” an organization that collects and donates up to \$150 in food weekly for the Family Justice Center’s pantry. Former Congresswoman Connie Morella has agreed to serve on the Advisory Board.

- B. Teen Dating ConferenceLevy

Judge Marielsa Bernard is organizing a conference on dating violence titled “*Choose Respect, Montgomery*” taking place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 14, 2009 at Montgomery College’s Rockville Campus. The Conference is a free event for teens and their parents. Legislative/ Budget Specialist Marcelo is representing CFW on the planning committee.

- C. BPW Women of Achievement - No report at this time.

D. MLAWAtterbeary / Lichter

MLAW's Fall Agenda Conference will be October 17, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Education Association in Rockville. A panel on effective advocacy will be offered, as well as an optional afternoon session. This is the conference in which legislative issues are proposed for inclusion on the agenda. The MCCFW's legislative priorities will be presented and voted on at the Commission's September 23, 2009 meeting in order to present recommendations to MLAW.

Staff will share information about MLAW's conference with the WLB Planning Committee.

E. Reproductive Health Care Work Group - No report at this time.

F. Teen Pregnancy Prevention – No report at this time

G. NACWVaughan-Prather

The NACW Video Teleconference that took place August 20, 2010 was excellent! The webcast featured Rachel Scott, Administrator of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, who presented insightful survival strategies for women's commissions. The workshop will soon be available to view online.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements at this time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**